



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Robert C. Hight, Director

2003 - 2004 Mammal Regulation Summary

License Year July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004

This summary flyer is provided in lieu of a Mammal Regulation Booklet. All laws or regulations hereunder are either reproduced verbatim from the Fish and Game Code or from Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, as adopted by the Fish and Game Commission under authority of the Fish and Game Code. **HUNTERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY MUST COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS, INCLUDING METHODS OF TAKE AND SHOOTING HOURS. PLEASE REFER TO COMPLETE REGULATION DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/regs.html, OR CONTACT A DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION: License and Revenue Branch** (Sacramento), (916) 227-2245
Headquarters (Sacramento), (916) 445-0411
Regional Offices: Redding, (530) 225-2300; Rancho Cordova, (916) 358-2900; Napa, (707) 944-5500; Fresno, (559) 243-4005; San Diego, (858) 467-4201; Chino Hills, (909) 597-9823

Alternate communication format is available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed call the Fish and Commission, (916) 653-4899, fgc@dfg.ca.gov or the California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones at (800) 735-2929.

Deer Season Dates

General Methods			
Zone/Hunt	Season Dates	Zone/Hunt	Season Dates
A	August 3 – September 21	D14	October 11 – November 9
B-1	September 20 – October 26	D15	October 11 – November 9
B-2	September 20 – October 26	D16	October 25 – November 23
B-3	September 20 – October 26	D17	October 11 – November 2
B-4	August 23 – September 28	D19	October 4 – November 2
B-5	September 20 – October 26	X1	October 4 – October 19
B-6	September 20 – October 19	X2	October 4 – October 19
C-1	September 20 – October 19	X3A	October 4 – October 19
C-2	September 20 – October 26	X3B	October 4 – October 19
C-3	September 20 – October 26	X4	October 4 – October 19
C-4	September 20 – October 5	X5A	October 4 – October 19
D-3	September 27 – November 2	X5B	October 4 – October 19
D-4	September 27 – November 2	X6A	October 4 – October 19
D-5	September 27 – November 2	X6B	October 4 – October 19
D-6	September 20 – November 2	X7A	October 4 – October 19
D-7	September 20 – November 2	X7B	October 4 – October 19
D-8	September 27 – October 26	X8	September 27 – October 12
D-9	September 27 – October 26	X9A	September 20 – October 13
D-10	September 27 – October 26	X9B	September 20 – October 13
D-11	October 11 – November 9	X9C	October 18 – November 9
D-12	November 1 – November 23	X10	September 27 – October 12
D-13	October 11 – November 9	X12	September 20 – October 13
Archery Only & Area Specific Archery Hunts			
AO1	valid in Zones A, B1-6, D3-19, G-10. see season dates below.	A-1 (C-4)	August 30 – September 14
AO2		A-3	August 16 – September 7
A	July 12 – August 3	A-4	August 16 – September 7
B-1	August 16 – September 7	A-5	August 16 – September 7
B-2	August 16 – September 7	A-6	August 16 – September 7
B-3	August 16 – September 7	A-7	August 16 – September 7
B-4	July 26 – August 17	A-8	August 16 – September 7
B-5	August 16 – September 7	A-9	August 16 – September 7
B-6	August 16 – September 7	A-11	August 16 – September 7
D-3	August 16 – September 7	A-12	August 16 – September 7
D-4	August 16 – September 7	A-13	August 16 – September 7
D-5	August 16 – September 7	A-14	August 16 – September 7
D-6	August 16 – September 7	A-15	August 16 – September 7
D-7	August 16 – September 7	A-16	August 16 – September 7
D-8	August 16 – September 7	A-17	August 16 – September 7
D-9	August 16 – September 7	A-18	August 16 – September 7
D-10	August 16 – September 7	A-19	August 16 – September 7
D-11	September 6 – September 28	A-20	August 16 – September 7
D-12	October 4 – October 26	A-21	November 8 – November 21
D-13	September 6 – September 28	A-22	September 6 – October 19 December 6 – December 31
D-14	September 6 – September 28	A-24	October 11 – November 9
D-15	September 6 – September 28	A-25	October 4 – October 27
D-16	September 6 – September 28	A-26	November 15 – December 7
D-17	September 6 – September 28	A-27	October 25 – November 9
D-19	September 6 – September 28	A-30	November 8 – November 23
A-1 (C-1)	August 16 – August 31	A-31	September 27 – December 31
A-1 (C-2)	August 9 – August 31	A-32	November 8 – November 30
A-1 (C-3)	August 9 – August 31		
Additional Hunts			
G-1	October 25 – November 2	MA-1	November 29 – December 14
G-3	December 6 – December 21	MA-3	November 29 – December 14
G-6	December 6 – December 14	J-1	November 1 – November 2
G-8	October 4 – October 14	J-3	November 29 – November 30
G-9	August 25 – September 1	J-4	November 22 – November 30
G-11	August 25 – December 31	J-7	October 18 – October 26
G-12	September 20 – September 28	J-8	December 6 – December 31
G-13	October 25 – November 9	J-9	September 20 – September 28
G-19	September 27 – December 31	J-10	October 4 – October 13
G-21	November 8 – November 30	J-11	November 15 – November 23
G-37	November 22 – November 30	J-12	December 6 – December 21
G-38	October 18 – November 2	J-13	November 15 – November 23
M-3	November 15 – November 23	J-14	November 15 – November 23
M-4	October 25 – November 2	J-15	November 22 – November 30
M-5	October 25 – November 2	J-16	September 27 – November 2
M-6	December 20 – December 31	J-17	September 27 – November 2
M-7	November 29 – December 14	J-18	September 27 – November 2
M-8	October 25 – November 2	J-19	October 4 – October 19
M-9	October 25 – November 9	J-20	October 4 – October 19
M-11	November 8 – November 23		

Select Hunting Provisions

Validation of Licenses To be valid, every California hunting or sport fishing license shall be signed by the licensee, and the license or validation stamp shall show the date of issue. In addition, the license shall contain the following information about the applicant: true name, residence address, date of birth, height, color of eyes, color of hair, weight, sex and, if available, driver's license number, and social security number or DMV I.D. number.

License Provisions A California hunting license is required for taking any bird or mammal. Hunters must carry licenses and be prepared to show them on request (Section 700, Title 14, CCR). Guns and other equipment used in hunting must be shown on request. **Residency:** A resident is defined as any person who has resided continuously in California for six months immediately before the date of application for a license, tag or permit; persons on active duty with the armed forces of the United States or an auxiliary branch; or Job Corps enrollees.

Tag Provisions In addition to a California hunting license, license tags are also required and must be in possession when taking deer, bear, antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, wild pigs and bobcats. Applicants for deer, bear, antelope, elk and wild pig license tags must be at least 12 years of age at the time of application; applicants for bighorn sheep tags must be at least 16 years of age at the time of application.

Deer Tags Issued On Request: All mail-in and over-the-counter deer tag applications received at the License and Revenue Branch on the same day are considered equally for deer tags issued on request, including leftover drawing tags. If, on any day, the number of applications received for a specific zone or hunt is expected to exceed the number of available tags, all applications received for that zone or hunt will be held until close of business on that day and a drawing will be held.

257.5. Prohibition Against Taking Resident Game Birds and Mammals by the Aid of Bait. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations or in the Fish and Game Code, resident game birds and mammals may not be taken within 400 yards of any baited area.

(a) Definition of Baited Area. As used in this regulation, "baited area" shall mean any area where shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grains, salt, or other feed whatsoever capable of luring, attracting, or enticing such birds or mammals is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, and such area shall remain a baited area for ten days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grains, salt, or other feed. [see full regulations for exceptions]

2005. FISH AND GAME CODE LAWS RELATED TO THE USE OF LIGHTS. It is unlawful to use an artificial light to assist in the taking of game birds, game mammals, or game fish, except that this section shall not apply to sport fishing in ocean waters or other waters where night fishing is permitted if the lights are not used on or as part of the fishing tackle, commercial fishing, nor to the taking of mammals, the taking of which is governed by Article 2 (commencing with Section 4180) of Chapter 3, Part 3, Division 4. It is unlawful for any person, or one or more persons, to throw or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light on any highway or in any field, woodland or forest where game mammals, furbearing mammals, or nongame mammals are commonly found, or upon any game mammal, furbearing mammal, or nongame mammal, while having in his possession or under his control any firearm or weapon with which such mammal could be killed, even though the mammal is not killed, injured, shot at or otherwise pursued. It is unlawful to use or possess at any time any infrared or similar light used in connection with an electronic viewing device sometimes designated as a sniper scope to assist in the taking of birds, mammals, amphibia or fish. [See full regulations for exceptions, and other applicable laws.]



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Select Hunting Provisions, *continued*

351. Forked-Horn Buck, Antlerless and Either-Sex Deer Defined.

(a) Forked-Horn Buck Defined. For the purpose of these regulations a forked-horn buck is defined as a male deer having a branched antler on either side with the branch in the upper two-thirds of the antler. Eyeguards or other bony projections on the lower onethird of the antler shall not be considered as points or branches.

(b) Antlerless Deer Defined. For the purpose of these regulations, antlerless deer are defined as female deer, fawns of either sex other than spotted fawns, and male deer with an unbranched antler on one or both sides which is not more than three inches in length.

(c) Either-Sex Deer Defined. For the purpose of these regulations, either-sex deer are defined as antlerless deer as described in Section 351 (b), or legal bucks that have two or more points in the upper two-thirds of either antler. Spike bucks may not be taken.

352. Shooting Hours on Big Game.

Hunting and shooting hours for big game, including but not limited to deer, antelope, elk, bear, and wild pig shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

353. Methods Authorized for Taking Big Game.

(a) Except for the provisions of subsections 353(b) through (g), Title 14, CCR, big game (as defined by Section 350, Title 14, CCR) may only be taken by rifles using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding bullets; bow and arrow (see Section 354, Title 14, CCR, for archery equipment regulations); or wheellock, matchlock, flintlock or percussion type muzzleloading rifles using black or pyrodex powder with single ball or bullet loaded from the muzzle and at least .40 caliber in designation.

(b) Shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing single slugs may be used for the taking of deer, bear and wild pigs. In areas where the dis-charge of rifles or shotguns with slugs is prohibited by county ordinance, shotguns capable of holding not more than three shells firing size 0 or 00 buckshot may be used for the taking of deer only.

(c) Pistols and revolvers using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding bullets may be used to take deer, bear and wild pigs.

(d) Pistols and revolvers with minimum barrel lengths of 4 inches, using centerfire cartridges with softnose or expanding bullets may be used to take elk and bighorn sheep.

(e) Crossbows may be used to take deer and wild pigs only during the regular seasons.

(f) Muzzleloading rifle hunters may not possess other firearms or archery equipment authorized for taking big game, pursuant to subsections 353(a) through (c), and shall possess muzzleloading rifles equipped with iron sights only, while hunting under the pro-visions of a muzzleloading rifle only tag.

(g) Under the provisions of a muzzleloading rifle/archery tag, hunters may possess muzzleloading rifles as described in subsection 353(a) equipped with iron sights only; archery equipment as described in Section 354; or both. For purposes of this subsection, archery equipment does not include crossbows.

354. Archery Equipment and Crossbow Regulations.

(a) Bow, as used in these regulations, means any device consisting of a flexible material having a string connecting its two ends and used to propel an arrow held in a firing position by hand only. Bow, includes long bow, recurve or compound bow.

(b) Crossbow, as used in these regulations means any device consisting of a bow or cured latex band or other flexible material (commonly referred to as a linear bow) affixed to a stock, or any bow that utilizes any device attached directly or indirectly to the bow for the purpose of keeping a crossbow bolt, an arrow or the string in a firing position. A crossbow is not archery equipment.

(c) For the taking of big game, hunting arrows and crossbow bolts with a broad head type blade which will not pass through a hole seven-eighths inch in diameter shall be used. Mechanical/retractable broad heads shall be measured in the open position. For the taking of migratory game birds, resident small game, furbearers and nongame mammals and birds any arrow or crossbow bolt may be used except as prohibited by subsection (d) below.

(d) No arrows or crossbow bolt with an explosive head or with any substance which would tranquilize or poison any animal may be used. No arrows or crossbow bolt without flu-flu fletching may be used for the take of pheasants and migratory game birds, except for provisions of section 507 (a)(2).

(e) No arrow or crossbow bolt may be released from a bow or crossbow upon or across any highway, road or other way open to vehicular traffic.

(f) No bow or crossbow may be used which will not cast a legal hunting arrow, except fluflu arrows, a horizontal distance of 130 yards.

(g) Crossbows may not be used to take game birds and game mammals during archery seasons.

(h) Archers may not possess a firearm while hunting in the field during any archery season, or while hunting during a general season under the provisions of an archery only tag.

(i) No person may nock or fit the notch in the end of

an arrow to a bowstring or crossbow string in a ready-to-fire position while in or on any vehicle.

Deer Tag Questions

For more information, contact your nearest Department of Fish and Game (DFG) office or the License and Revenue Branch of DFG in Sacramento, at: 227-2245 or visit www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/index.com.

[See full regulations for zone boundary descriptions and other applicable laws.]

Bear Hunting

365. Bear.

Except as provided in Section 366, bear may be taken only as follows: (Note: See subsection 265(c)(1) for restrictions on the use of dogs.)

(b) Seasons: Except in the deer hunt areas designated as zones X-1 through X-7b in subsection 360(b), the bear season shall open on the opening day of the general deer season as described in subsections 360(a) and (b) and extend until the last Sunday in December in the areas described in subsections 365(a)(1), (2), (3) (4) and (5). In those areas designated as deer hunting zones X-1 through X-7b, the bear season shall open on the second Saturday in October and extend for 79 consecutive days*[see full regulations for zone descriptions]*. The bear season shall be closed when the department determines that 1,700 bears have been taken pursuant to the reporting require-ment in section 708(e). The department shall notify the commission, the public via the news media and bear tag holders via the U.S. mail and the news media when implementing this closure.

(c) Bag and Possession Limit: One adult bear per season. Cubs and females accompanied by cubs may not be taken. (Cubs are defined as bears less than one year of age or bears weighing less than 50 pounds.)

(d) No open season for bear in the balance of the state not included in subsection (a) above.

(e) Bait: No feed, bait or other materials capable of attracting a bear shall be placed or used for the purpose of taking or pursuing a bear. No bear shall be taken over such bait. No person may take a bear within a 400-yard radius of a garbage dump or bait.

366. Archery Bear Hunting.

(a) Areas: Those portions of the state as described in subsection (a) of section 365.

(b) Season: The archery bear season shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 consecutive days. There is no open season for taking bear with bow and arrow in the balance of the state.

(c) Bag and Possession Limit: One adult bear per season. Cubs and female accompanied by cubs may not be taken. (Cubs are defined as bears less than one year of age or bears weighing less than 50 pounds.)

(d) The use of dogs is prohibited during the archery season for bear.

(e) Bait. No feed, bait or other materials capable of attracting a bear to a feeding area shall be placed or used for the purpose of taking or pursuing a bear. No bear shall be taken over such bait. No person may take a bear within a 400 yard radius of a garbage dump or bait.

367.5. Presentation of Bear Skull.

Any person who takes a bear shall present the skull (even if damaged) to a department office/officer within 10 days of taking the bear. The skull shall become property of the department. That portion of the skull not needed for scientific purposes shall be returned.

368. Wild Pig.

Wild pigs may be taken only as follows:

(a) General Season: Open all year.

(b) Bag and Possession Limit: There is no daily bag or possession limit for wild pigs.

NONGAME ANIMALS

472. General Provisions.

Except as otherwise provided in Sections 478 and 485 and subsections (a) through (d) below, nongame birds and mammals may not be taken.

(a) The following nongame birds and mammals may be taken at any time of the year and in any number except as prohibited in Chapter 6: English sparrow, starling, coyote, weasels, skunks, opossum, moles and rodents (excluding tree and flying squirrels, and those listed as furbearers, endangered or threatened species).

(b) Fallow, sambar, sika, and axis deer may be taken only concurrently with the general deer season.

(c) Aoudad, mouflon, tahr, and feral goats may be taken all year.

(d) American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) may be taken only under the provisions of Section 485 and by landowners or tenants, or by persons authorized in writing by such landowners or tenants, when American crows are committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance. *[See full regulations for hours and methods of nongame animal take, and other applicable laws.]*

Deer License Tag Procedures and Requirements

(3) Tagging Requirements:

Immediately upon killing a deer, both portions of the deer license tag must be completely filled out and the date of kill permanently marked on the deer license tag. The deer license tag must be attached to the antlers of an antlered deer or to the ear of any

other deer and kept attached during the open season and for 15 days thereafter. Except as otherwise provided, possession of any untagged deer shall be a violation (refer to Fish and Game Code, Section 4336).

(4) Tag Validation and Countersigning Requirements, and Transporting for the Purpose of: Any person legally killing a deer in this state shall have the deer license tag validated and countersigned by a person authorized by the commission...before transporting such deer, except for the purpose of taking the deer to the nearest person authorized to countersign the license tag, on the route being followed from the point where the deer was taken (refer to Fish and Game Code, Section 4341).

(5) Deer Head Retention Requirements and Production Upon Demand: Any person taking any deer in this state shall retain in their possession during the open season thereon and for 15 days thereafter, that portion of the head which in adult males normally bears the antlers, and shall produce the designated portion of the head upon the demand of any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this regulation (refer to Fish and Game Code, Section 4302).

(6) Deer Tag Reporting Requirements: Every person to whom a deer tag is issued shall return the completed report card portion to the department within thirty days of taking a deer.

(7) Deer Violations, Tag Forfeiture: Any person who is convicted of a violation involving deer shall forfeit their current year deer license tags and no new deer license tags may be issued to that person during the then current hunting license year, and that person may not apply for a deer tag for the following license year (refer to Fish and Game Code, Section 4340). *[See full regulations for persons authorized to validate, and other applicable laws.]*

PROHIBITION ON LOADED RIFLE OR SHOTGUN IN VEHICLE*

It is unlawful to possess a loaded rifle or shotgun in any vehicle or conveyance or its attachments which is standing on or along or is being driven on or along any public highway or other way open to the public. A rifle or shotgun shall be deemed to be loaded for the purposes of this section when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell in the firing chamber but not when the only cartridges or shells are in the magazine.* The provisions of this section shall not apply to peace officers or members of the armed forces of this state or the United States, while on duty or going to or returning from duty. Fish and Game Code Section 2006.

*NOTE: Hunters should be aware that subdivisions (a) and (g) of Section 12031 of the Penal Code provide that:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), (c) or (d), every person who carries a loaded firearm on his or her person or in a vehicle while in any public place or on any public street in an incorporated city or in any public place or on any public street in a prohibited area of unincorporated territory is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(g) A firearm shall be deemed to be loaded for the purposes of this section when there is an unexpended cartridge or shell, consisting of a case which holds a charge of powder and a bullet or shot, in, or attached in any manner to, the firearm, including, but not limited to, in the firing chamber, magazine, or clip thereof attached to the firearm; except that a muzzle-loader firearm shall be deemed to be loaded when it is capped or primed and has a powder charge and ball or shot in the barrel or cylinder.

OTHER LAWS RELATED TO HUNTING DISCHARGING FIREARMS OR OTHER DEADLY WEAPONS:

It is unlawful for any person, other than the owner, person in possession of the premises, or a person having the express permission of the owner or person in possession of the premises, to hunt or to discharge while hunting, any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards of any occupied dwelling house, residence, or other building or any barn or other outbuilding used in connection therewith. The 150-yard area is a "safety zone."

TRESPASS: If the land you hunt on is not your own, it belongs to someone else. Make sure you have a legal right to be there. Contact the owner or person who administers the property, and secure written permission to hunt. A hunting license does not entitle you to enter private property. "It is unlawful to enter any lands under cultivation or enclosed by a fence, belonging to, or occupied by, another, or to enter any uncultivated or unenclosed lands, including lands temporarily inundated by waters flowing outside the established banks of a river, stream, slough, or other waterway, where signs forbidding trespass are displayed at intervals not less than three to the mile along all exterior boundaries and at all roads and trails entering such lands, for the purpose of discharging any firearm or taking or destroying any mammal or bird, including any waterfowl, on such lands without having first obtained written permission from the owner of such lands, or his agent, or the person in lawful possession thereof. Such signs may be of any size and wording, other than the wording required for signs under Section 2017, which will fairly advise persons about to enter the land that the use of such land is so restricted." Section 2016, Fish and Game Code.

Elk, Antelope & Sheep tags are allocated through the big game tag drawing in June. Additional hunting information regarding these hunts is mailed with tags to successful applicants. Full hunting regulations can be found on the internet at www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/regs.html.